

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PM-03 L-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-05 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 TRSE-00 H-01 PA-01

AS-01 /040 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7943

INFO AMEMBASSY MANILA

CINCPAC

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 2610

LIMDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, US, SN, RP

SUBJECT: A-4 TRAINING IN THE PHILIPPINES

REFS: (A) 76 SINGAPORE 3901, (B) 76 STATE 203561, 76 STATE 201152

1. ALMOST A YEAR HAS ELAPSED SINCE EMBASSY REQUESTED GOS TO DALAY COMPLETING ITS AGREEMENT WITH GOP FOR RSAF ADVANCED A-4 TRAINING AT CLARK AFB. GOS PERM SEC FOR DEFENSE HAS RECENTLY CONFIRMED TO AIR ATTACHE GOS STRONG INTEREST IN OBTAINING THIS TRAINING. GOS CONTINUES TO WAIT PATIENTLY HOPING THAT THE U.S. WILL SOON RENEW AND COMPLETE ITS BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP. HOWEVER OUR NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL HANGING FIRE AND WE SEE LITTLE INDICATION THAT EITHER WE OR THE PHILIPPINES INTEND TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TO PRESS THE ISSUE. RECENT VISITORS FROM HONOLULU AND WASHINGTON, CINCPAC POLAD AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OAKLEY, HAVE CONFIRMED THIS IMPRESSION.

2. IN VIEW OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES WE SEE LITTLE ADVANTAGE TO BE
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GAINED FROM GOS CONTINUING TO DELAY COMPLETION OF ITS ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE GOP. IN FACT THERE MAY BE SOME ADVANTAGE TO HAVING GOS GO AHEAD AND SIGN AGREEMENT WITH GOP, ARRANGE TO USE U.S. FACILITIES AT CLARK AFB FOR TRAINING A-4S AND PROCEED WITH ACTUAL TRAINING BEFORE WE BECOME TOO EMBROILED IN THE NEXT ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GOP. IN OUR VIEW DEPARTMENT WAS PREVIOUSLY CORRECT IN TAKING POSITION THAT GOS TRAINING

ARRANGEMENTS ARE OF A LIMITED NATURE AND WOULD NOT CONSTITUTE A SERIOUS PRECEDENT COMPLICATING U.S./PHILIPPINE BASE NEGOTIATIONS (REF C). FURTHERMORE, GOS PATIENCE IS NOT LIMITLESS AND WE THINK SINGAPORE SHOULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO WAIT INDEFINITELY TO COMPLETE ITS ARRANGEMENTS WITH GOP WHEN U.S. IS DELAYING COMPLETING ITS OWN BASE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: REQUEST DEPARTMENT APPROVE EMBASSY APPROACH TO MIN DEF STATING THAT U.S. NO LONGER HAS ANY OBJECTION TO CONCLUSION OF SINGAPORE/PHILIPPINE NEGOTIATIONS FOR ADVANCED A-4 TRAINING AT CLARK AFB, AND THAT FOLLOWING COMPLETION OF SINGAPORE/PHILIPPINE AGREEMENT WE ARE PREPARED TO WORK OUT PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH RSAF FOR USE OF U.S. FACILITIES AT THE BASE.
HOLDRIDGE

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